

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 06422 071228Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W
-----120200 071233Z /47

P 071217Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7151
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 06422

DEPARTMENT PASS AID FOR AA/NE WHEELER

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, SY
SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM - SYRIAN WATER USES AND GOJ/SARG TREATY

REF: AMMAN 3507

1. DURING AUGUST 5 MEETING, OMAR ABDULLAH, PRESIDENT, JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY ADVISED HARRELL AND TAUBENBLATT THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT AND VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER TO SYRIA AUGUST 2 AND 3, THAT THEY DISCUSSED WITH SYRIANS THEIR PLANS FOR USING WATER IN THE UPPER REACHES OF THE YARMOUK. ACCORDING TO ABDULLAH, SARG WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE ON FUTURE USES IN UPPER YARMOUK AREA, BUT AGREED TO REQUEST THE DIFFERENT SARG MINISTRIES TO COMPILE DATA ON FUTURE IRRIGATION AND OTHER WATER USE PLANS. ABDULLAH SAID THAT HE WILL RETURN TO SYRIA TO REVIEW THE DATA ONCE AVAILABLE.

2. TAUBENBLATT ASKED ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE GOJ/SARG TREATY FOR THE UTILIZATION OF WATERS OF THE YARMOUK RIVER. ABDULLAH INDICATED THAT IN VIEW OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF SYRIAN WATER USES PER PARA ONE ABOVE, HE ASKED SARG TO DEFER RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY PENDING THE OUTCOME OF PARA ONE ABOVE REVIEW. SPECIFICALLY,
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ABDULLAH SAID THAT HE MAY WISH TO RENEGOTIATE ARTICLE EIGHT OF THE TREATY WHICH PROVIDES THAT QUOTE THE HKJ HAS THE RIGHT TO UTILIZE ALL WATERS AND ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM THE DAM PROVIDED THAT THE NEIGHBORING SYRIAN VILLAGES BE SUPPLIED WITH THE NECESSARY AMOUNTS OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY. UNQUOTE. ABDULLAH IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH THE IMPRECISE PHRASE QUOTE NEIGHBORING SYRIAN VILLAGES UNQUOTE AND MAY WISH TO NARROW THE GEOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS OF QUOTE

NEIGHBORING SYRIAN VILLAGES UNQUOTE IN REVISIONS TO TREATY. FYI:
WE DISCERN THAT ABDULLAH MOST SENSITIVE TO WATER AVAILABILITY FOR
MAQARIN DAM PROJECT, IN VIEW POSSIBLE SYRIAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR
WATER USES AND THUS DESIRES BETTER DEFINITION OF SYRIAN USES IN
ARTICLE EIGHT OF TREATY. END FYI.

3. TAUBENBLATT HAS OBTAINED COPIES OF GOJ/SARG TREATY OF JUNE 4, 1953
AND AMENDMENTS AS RATIFIED BY GOJ AND PRINTED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE
ISSUE NO. 2703 DATED JUNE 1, 1977, AND WILL HAND CARRY TO WASHINGTON.

4. WHEELER MAY WISH TO APPRISE MAURICE BART, WORLD BANK, SUBSTANCE
ABOVE IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST. SUDDARTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, DAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978AMMAN06422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780322-0854
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780889/aaaacwzy.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 39380467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 AMMAN 3507
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1810981
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAQARIN DAM - SYRIAN WATER USES AND GOJ/SARG TREATY
TAGS: EAID, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/39380467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014